

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Claims 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 16-19 have been withdrawn from consideration.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 13 have been amended, and claims 20 and 21 have been newly added. The subject matter of claims 20 and 21 are supported by Figs. 5A and 5B and the corresponding description in the specification. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-21 would be pending.

II. Objections To The Claim

Claims 13 and 15 are objected to because of informalities. Applicants have amended these claims to address the Examiner's concerns. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of these claims are respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103:

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Grube (US 3,704,507). Claims 1-4, 7, 9, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Palumbo (US 3,970,399). Claims 1-4, 7, 9, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Permoda (US 4,601,621). Claims 1-4, 7, 9, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Reeves (US 5,368,426). Claims 1-4, 7, 9, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Winton, III (US 5,489,175). Claims 1-4, 7, 9, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Williams (US 5,674,023). Claims 1-4, 7, 9, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being

anticipated by Marshall et al. (US 3,425,725). Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Palumbo. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Permoda. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Reeves. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Winton, III. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Williams. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Marshall, et al.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a Z-type fastener having a base extension tab; a fastening aperture engaging portion; an extension block that extends in a lateral direction opposite that of the base extension tab, wherein the extension block includes a bore configured to accept an elongated part of a securing bolt. When the Z-type fastener is engaged with a first assembly element, the base extension tab is configured to contact an interior wall of the first assembly element, whereas the fastening aperture engaging portion is configured to contact the first assembly element in the plane of a fastening aperture.

The cited references do not disclose or suggest a Z-type fastener with a base extension tab (configured to contact an interior wall) and an extension block in which an extension block extends in a lateral direction opposite that of the base extension tab. A non-limiting example is shown and described with reference to Figs. 5A and 5B in the specification.

For example, Grube discloses a piercing and clinching method to fabricate pierce nuts effectively, rather than fasteners themselves. Instead of making pierce nuts individually, a plurality of pierce nuts are made as a series of connected nuts from a steel strip, with a series of dies. The pierce nuts are then cut from the strip and clinched into a panel. Grube is silent as to the above-noted claimed Z-type fastener feature.

Palumbo describes a fastener which generally is of A T-nut type. Palumbo is also silent as to the above-noted claimed Z-type fastener feature.

As to Permoda, the Examiner asserts that the base extension tab is taught by a slots 22 and unslotted portion 28. Notwithstanding that a “slot” is not a tab, the fastener of Permoda is also silent as to the above-noted claimed Z-type fastener feature.

Reeves describes a connector with a horizontal channel member 12 and a vertical channel member 14. The vertical channel member 14 is connected at a midpoint of the horizontal channel member 12 such that the vertical channel member 14 and the horizontal channel member 12 forms an inverted T-shaped protrusion. The vertical and horizontal members are attached to a backplate 18. Reeves is also silent as to the above-noted claimed Z-type fastener feature.

Winton generally describes a T-nut type fastener. Winton is also silent as to the above-noted claimed Z-type fastener feature.

Williams is directed to a C-shaped fastener clip. Williams is also silent as to the above-noted claimed Z-type fastener feature.

Marshall shows a retainer insert 40 with a body portion 42 formed with parallel elongated channels 44 and 46 along its opposite sides 48 and 50, respectively. The channels are complementary to the generally parallel sides of the slot 34 and in the channel member 14, so that the insert may be slidably positioned in the slot with the sides of the slot engaged 44 and 46 of the insert. Marshall is also silent as to the above-noted claimed Z-type fastener feature. rather than fasteners.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 and its dependent claims are not anticipated by the cited references and are patentably distinguishable over the same. For similar reasons, claims 12 as amended and its dependent claims are also not anticipated by the cited references and are patentably distinguishable over the same.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 0403-4107US1.


In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 0403-4107US1.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated:

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